



**Connecticut
Light & Power**

The Northeast Utilities System



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**TESTIMONY OF RICHARD A. SODERMAN
THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY
and YANKEE GAS SERVICES COMPANY
Energy and Technology Committee—Feb. 3, 2011**

P.H.B. No. 5207 - *AN ACT CONCERNING A SPECIAL ELECTRICITY RATE FOR SENIORS WHO HEAT THEIR HOMES WITH ELECTRICITY*

Good afternoon. My name is Richard Soderman, and I am Director of Legislative Policy for Northeast Utilities, appearing on behalf of the Connecticut Light and Power Company and Yankee Gas Services. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the bill before you.

This bill seeks to establish an electric rate discount for customers over the age of 55 who heat their homes with electricity. CL&P opposes this bill as drafted. CL&P is concerned that this bill provides a discount to electric heat customers based solely on their age, regardless of their financial ability to pay their bills. The impact of this legislation is that all other electric customers would be required to pay for the discount offered through rates. This unfairly shifts costs to other customers. The utilities should not be required to provide discounts to anyone who can financially afford to pay their bill. CL&P would support a low income discount rate which would be applicable to all customers, regardless of their age. CL&P believes that this approach ensures that those customers who truly need the discount would receive it.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this bill.